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A grid-independent EMMS/bubbling drag model for bubbling and turbulent fluidization

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Abstract

The EMMS/bubbling drag model takes the effects of meso-scale structures (i.e. bubbles) into modeling of drag coefficient and thus improves coarse-grid simulation of bubbling and turbulent fluidized beds. However, its dependence on grid size has not been fully investigated. In this article, we adopt a two-step scheme to extend the EMMS/bubbling model to the sub-grid level. Thus the heterogeneity index, H_D , which accounts for the hydrodynamic disparity between homogeneous and heterogeneous fluidization, can be correlated as a function of both local voidage and slip velocity. Simulations over a periodic domain show the new drag model is less sensitive to grid size because of the additional dependence on local slip velocity. When applying the new drag model to simulations of realistic bubbling and turbulent fluidized beds, we find grid-independent results are easier to obtain for high-velocity turbulent fluidized bed cases. The simulation results indicate that the extended EMMS/bubbling drag model is a potential method for coarse-grid simulations of large-

scale fluidized beds.

Keywords: fluidized bed; EMMS; simulation; grid dependence; drag coefficient; CFD

1 Introduction

Gas-solid fluidization has wide applications in various industries, such as fluid catalytic cracking (FCC), methanol to olefins (MTO), coal gasification and combustion, owing to its advantages in gas-particle contact, heat and mass transfer, and operating flexibility. With the increase of gas velocity, fluidization regime may experience a series of transitions covering homogenous expansion, bubbling fluidization, turbulent fluidization, fast fluidization and pneumatic conveying [1-3]. Different flow regimes are characterized by different meso-scale structures, such as bubbles or voids in bubbling and turbulent fluidization [4, 5], and particle clusters in the so-called fast fluidization [1, 6, 7]. These meso-scale structures are recognized to have big impact on the momentum, heat and mass transfer as well as reactions, thus should be taken into account in modeling.

Of various computational fluid dynamic (CFD) approaches, the Eulerian-Eulerian two-fluid model (TFM) requires the least computational resources, and thus, is widely used for simulating large-scale fluidized bed reactors. However, there are still controversial opinions on the applicability of the local equilibrium assumption underlying the TFM [8-10]. In addition, when the TFM is used with coarse-grid resolution in industrial applications, the grid size could be over one hundred times the particle diameter, as in the cases of Lu et al. [11], Schneiderbauer et al. [12] and Shah et al. [13]. Such coarse-grid resolution, if without sub-grid modeling, may greatly reduce the accuracy of simulation [7, 11, 13, 14].

1 In recent years, the effect of sub-grid meso-scale structures on the drag has received much
2 attention [1, 15-20]. Among these researches, the energy-minimization multi-scale (EMMS)
3 approach has been found successful in correcting the drag and predicting the flow distribution in
4 circulating fluidized bed (CFB) of fine particles [11, 21-23]. In the EMMS model, the
5 heterogeneous gas-particle flow was characterized by the meso-scale structure consisting of a
6 particle-rich dense phase in form of clusters and a gas-rich dilute phase in form of dispersed particles.
7 Eight parameters (ε_{gc} , U_{gc} , U_{sc} , ε_{gf} , U_{gf} , U_{sf} , f , d_{cl}) were assigned to quantify such meso-scale
8 structure and were closed by six equations including mass and momentum conservations and a
9 stability condition $N_{st} \rightarrow \min$ [15]. To couple the EMMS model with CFD, Yang et al. [24, 25]
10 introduced an acceleration term for both dense and dilute phases and then obtained a structure-
11 dependent EMMS drag. Wang and Li [1] further proposed a two-step scheme called EMMS/matrix,
12 in which the meso-scale parameters (ε_{gc} , d_{cl}) were determined at the global reactor scale through
13 solving a set of conservation equations and the stability condition, while the remaining variables
14 were determined in the second step by satisfying local conservation equations within computational
15 cells, thereby the drag correction in term of the heterogeneity index, $H_D = \beta/\beta_0$, was found to be a
16 function of local slip velocity u_r and local voidage ε_g . In contrast, pervious meso-scale models [24,
17 25] were found to result in heterogeneity index as only a function of voidage. This additional
18 dependence of drag correction on the slip velocity was considered to be critical to reduce the
19 sensitivity of CFD simulation on grid resolution [16, 26]. Indeed some other researches also
20 confirmed that the drag correction should not only depend on voidage but also on slip velocity [19,
21 26], and such additional dependency on slip velocity was helpful to obtain grid-independent results
22 and improve accuracy [27].

1

2 To extend the application of the EMMS model to the realm of bubbling fluidization, Shi et al.
3 [4] and Hong et al. [5] introduced bubbles in place of the particle clusters to characterize the meso-
4 scale structure. This drag model called EMMS/bubbling model improved CFD performance for
5 both bubbling and turbulent fluidized beds [5, 28]. However, its dependence on the grid size has not
6 been fully investigated. In particular, whether this grid dependence can be reduced by introducing
7 the factor of local slip velocity (U_r), as in the case of EMMS/matrix drag model, remains to be
8 explored.

9 In this paper, we aim to introduce the local slip velocity in the EMMS/bubbling model by
10 following the two-step scheme of the EMMS/matrix drag model. Then, a series of simulations are
11 carried out in the 2D periodic domain to test the grid dependence of the new EMMS/bubbling drag
12 model. Finally, this two-step EMMS/bubbling drag model is tested through simulations of a
13 bubbling fluidized bed and two turbulent fluidized beds.

14

15 **2. Extension of EMMS/bubbling model to sub-grid level**

16 2.1 Model derivation

17 In this work, we try to develop a new drag model based on the work of Hong et al. [5]. In the
18 EMMS/bubbling model [5], monodisperse gas-solid flow is resolved into a dense phase (emulsion,
19 denoted by subscript c) and a dilute phase (bubble, denoted by subscript f). There are seven
20 equations and a stability condition to close ten variables, i.e., U_{gc} , U_{sc} , a_{sc} and ε_{gc} for the dense phase,
21 U_{gf} , U_{sf} , a_{sf} and ε_{gf} for the dilute phase and f and d_b for the interphase.

22 The momentum balance equations for the dense phase and inter-phase, and dilute phase are as

1 follows

$$2 \quad fF_{dc} + F_{di} = \frac{3}{4} C_{dc} \frac{f(1-\varepsilon_{gc})}{d_p} \rho_g U_{rc}^2 + \frac{3}{4} C_{db} \frac{1-f}{d_b} \rho_c U_{ri}^2 = f(1-\varepsilon_{gc})(\rho_s - \rho_g)(g + a_{sc}), \quad (1)$$

$$3 \quad F_{df} = \frac{3}{4} C_{df} \frac{1-\varepsilon_{gf}}{d_p} \rho_g U_{rf}^2 = (1-\varepsilon_{gf})(\rho_s - \rho_g)(g + a_{sf}). \quad (2)$$

4 Pressure balance of different phases [5],

$$5 \quad F_{df} + \frac{F_{di}}{1-f} = F_{dc}. \quad (3)$$

6 The mass balances for the gas and solid phases require that

$$7 \quad U_g = fU_{gc} + (1-f)U_{gf}, \quad (4)$$

$$8 \quad U_s = fU_{sc} + (1-f)U_{sf}, \quad (5)$$

9 The mean voidage is related to the dense-phase and dilute-phase voidages by

$$10 \quad \varepsilon_g = f\varepsilon_{gc} + (1-f)\varepsilon_{gf}. \quad (6)$$

11 The bubble diameter, as in our previous work, follows the correlation of Horio and Nonaka [29],

12 which was reported applicable to a variety of powders [29-32].

$$13 \quad d_b = \left[-\gamma_m + (\gamma_m^2 + 4d_{bm}/D_t)^{0.5} \right]^2 D_t / 4, \quad (7)$$

14 where

$$15 \quad \gamma_m = 0.0256\sqrt{(D_t/g)}/U_{mf}, \quad d_{bm} = 2.59g^{-0.2} \left[(U_g - U_{gc})\pi D_t^2 / 4 \right]^{0.4}.$$

16 The above equations are assumed to satisfy the stability condition in term of the minimization

17 of normalized N_{st} , the mass-specific energy consumption rate for suspending particles, as follows:

$$18 \quad \frac{N_{st}}{N_T} = \left(\frac{fF_{dc}U_{gc} + (1-f)F_{df}U_{gf}}{(1-\varepsilon_g)\rho_s} + (1-f)\varepsilon_{gf}U_g g / \varepsilon_g \right) \left/ \left(\frac{(\rho_s - \rho_g)}{\rho_s} g U_g \right) \right. \rightarrow \min. \quad (8)$$

19

20 Table 1 Summary of parameters and definitions in EMMS/bubbling model (adapted from Hong et

	Dilute phase	Dense phase	Inter-phase
Characteristic diameter	d_p	d_p	d_b
Voidage	ε_{gf}	ε_{gc}	$1-f$
Superficial relative velocity	$U_{rf} = U_{gf} - \frac{U_{sf}\varepsilon_{gf}}{\varepsilon_{sf}}$	$U_{rc} = U_{gc} - \frac{U_{sc}\varepsilon_{gc}}{\varepsilon_{sc}}$	$U_{ri} = f(U_f - U_c)$
Reynolds number	$Re_f = \frac{\rho_g d_p U_{rf}}{\mu_g}$	$Re_c = \frac{\rho_g d_p U_{rc}}{\mu_g}$	$Re_i = \frac{\rho_c d_b U_{ri}}{\mu_c}$
Standard drag coefficient	$C_{df0} = \frac{24}{Re_f} + \frac{3.6}{Re_f^{0.313}}$	$C_{dc0} = \frac{24}{Re_c} + \frac{3.6}{Re_c^{0.313}}$	$\begin{cases} C_{db0} = 38Re_i^{1.5} & (0 < Re_i \leq 1.8) \\ C_{db0} = 2.7 + \frac{24}{Re_i} & (Re_i > 1.8) \end{cases}$
Effective drag coefficient	$C_{df} = C_{df0}\varepsilon_{gf}^{-4.65}$	$C_{dc} = C_{dc0}\varepsilon_{gc}^{-4.65}$	$C_{db} = C_{db0}f^{-0.5}$
Number density	$m_f = \frac{1-\varepsilon_{gf}}{\pi d_p^3/6}$	$m_c = \frac{1-\varepsilon_{gc}}{\pi d_p^3/6}$	$m_i = \frac{1-f}{\pi d_b^3/6}$
Drag force on each particle or bubble	$F_f = C_{df} \frac{\pi d_p^2}{4} \frac{\rho_g}{2} U_{rf}^2$	$F_c = C_{dc} \frac{\pi d_p^2}{4} \frac{\rho_g}{2} U_{rc}^2$	$F_i = C_{db} \frac{\pi d_b^2}{4} \frac{\rho_c}{2} U_{ri}^2$
Drag force in unit volume	$F_{df} = m_f F_f$	$F_{dc} = m_c F_c$	$F_{di} = m_i F_i$

2 * The mean velocities of the dilute and dense phases are defined as $U_f = (\rho_g U_{gf} + \rho_s U_{sf})/\rho_b$ and
3 $U_c = (\rho_g U_{gc} + \rho_s U_{sc})/\rho_c$, respectively, where ρ_b , ρ_c and μ_c are expressed as $\rho_b = \varepsilon_{gf}\rho_g + \varepsilon_{sf}\rho_s$, $\rho_c = \varepsilon_{gc}\rho_g + \varepsilon_{sc}\rho_s$,
4 and $\mu_c = \mu_g[1 + 2.5\varepsilon_{sc} + 10.05\varepsilon_{sc}^2 + 0.00273\exp(16.6\varepsilon_{sc})]$, respectively.

5

6 The related definitions and model parameters are summarized in Table 1. Similar to the
7 two-step scheme of the EMMS/matrix drag model, in the first step, we calculate the meso-scale
8 structure parameters (ε_{gc} , d_b) by solving the set of conservation equations and the stability condition,

Eqs.(1) to (8) at the reactor level under the given superficial gas velocity. The scheme for this first step is referred to Hong et al [5]. ε_{gc} and d_b can thus be expressed as a function of voidage. As indicated in the EMMS/matrix model, the voidage in bubbles tends to ε_{\max} ($\varepsilon_{\max}=0.9997$) and a_{sf} tends to $-g$. Then, the remaining variables, i.e. $(U_{gc}, U_{sc}, a_{sc}, f)$ for the dense phase and (U_{gf}, U_{sf}) for the dilute phase, can be determined in the second step by solving the conservation equations (Eqs. (1) ~ (6)) locally within each grid. As indicated in Lu et al. [16], the velocities $U_{gc}, U_{sc}, U_{gf}, U_{sf}$ can be further reduced to two slip velocities (U_{ri}, U_{rc}) by combining the definitions of superficial velocities as shown in Table 1 and the equations (Eqs.(4) ~ (6)). The relationship between two slip velocities (U_{ri}, U_{rc}) can be expressed as Eq. (9),

$$U_{ri} = \frac{f(1-\varepsilon_g)}{(1-f)(\varepsilon_{gf}-\varepsilon_g)} \left(U_r - fU_{rc} - \frac{\rho_g(1-f)(\varepsilon_{gf}-\varepsilon_g)}{\rho_c(1-\varepsilon_g)} U_{rc} \right). \quad (9)$$

The detailed derivation of Eq.(9) is provided in Supplementary material. Finally, four unknown parameters ($f, U_{rc}, U_{ri}, a_{sc}$) in the second step are closed by four equations, Eqs. (1), (3), (6) and (9).

With the meso-scale parameters (ε_{gc}, d_b) resolved in the first step, the scheme of the second step is described as follows:

- (1) traverse over trial values of local parameters, U_r and ε_g ,
- (2) calculate the volume fraction of dense phase f from Eq. (6),
- (3) calculate U_{rc} and U_{ri} from Eq. (3) and Eq. (9),
- (4) calculate a_{sc} from Eq. (1).

Through above four steps, all parameters are solved and the structure-dependent drag coefficient are obtained as follows.

2.2 Structure-dependent drag coefficient

As in the work of Hong et al. [5], the structure-dependent drag coefficient is determined by

$$\begin{aligned}\beta &= \frac{\varepsilon_g^2}{U_r} \left[fF_{dc} + (1-f)F_{df} + F_{di} \right] \\ &= \frac{\varepsilon_g^2}{U_r} (\rho_s - \rho_g) \left[f(1-\varepsilon_{gc})(g + a_{sc}) + (1-f)(1-\varepsilon_{gf})(g + a_{sf}) \right].\end{aligned}\quad (10)$$

And the heterogeneity index, H_D , is defined by

$$H_D = \frac{\beta}{\beta_0}, \quad (11)$$

where

$$\beta_0 = \frac{3}{4} C_{d0} \frac{\varepsilon_g (1-\varepsilon_g)}{d_p} \rho_g |u_g - u_s| \varepsilon_g^{-2.65}.$$

Because of the two-step scheme, as in Lu et al. [16], the heterogeneity index, H_D , can be also expressed as a function of local slip velocity ($Re = U_r \rho_g d_p / \mu_g$) and voidage. As shown in Fig.1, The drag coefficient is much less than the homogenous one within most of the voidage range, except near the two ends corresponding to the packed state and extremely dilute flow, respectively. Higher slip velocity generally results in higher values of H_D , and the previous version of EMMS/bubbling drag (Hong et al. [5]) can thus be viewed as a particular case of this work when the local superficial slip velocity U_r is equal to the global superficial slip velocity $(U_g - G_s \varepsilon_g / (1 - \varepsilon_g) / \rho_s)$. To facilitate its coupling with CFD code, H_D is fitted in the form of $H_D = a Re^{(bRe+c)}$, where a , b , and c are all functions of voidage.

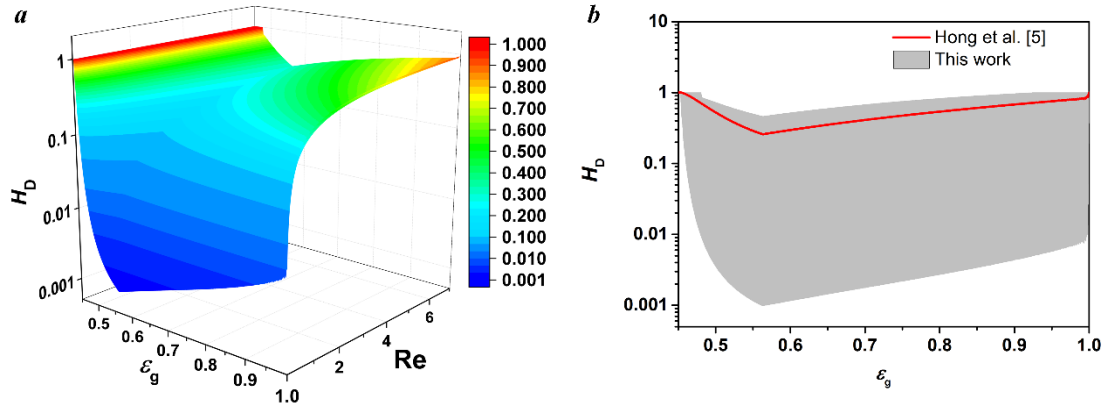


Fig. 1 The heterogeneity index (H_D) of (a) new EMMS/bubbling model for a bubbling fluidized bed and its comparison with that of (b) Hong et al. [5] (Dubrawski et al. [33]: $\rho_g=1.225 \text{ kg/m}^3$, $\rho_p=1560 \text{ kg/m}^3$, $d_p=103 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $\mu_g=1.8\times 10^{-5} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$, $U_g=0.5 \text{ m/s}$, $\varepsilon_{mf}=0.45$, $G_s=0$, $D_t=0.133$)

3 Sensitivity to grid size

3.1 Simulation settings

The grid size has significant effects on the simulation results [7, 19, 34]. To test the grid dependence when applying the new drag model, we chose a 2D doubly periodic domain with dimension comparable to a typical coarse grid in TFM simulations, as in the work of Lu et al. [16] and Agrawal et al. [7].

Square grids were generated uniformly by using Gambit® 2.4, and ANSYS Fluent® 15 was used as the CFD solver. Two different solid concentrations, i.e., $\varepsilon_s=0.05$ and $\varepsilon_s=0.2$, were adopted to represent the dilute and dense flow. Fine particles were distributed uniformly in the domain at the beginning. The pressure drop in the vertical direction was specified to be equal to the gravity of solid particles. Both gas and solid phases were initialized with zero velocity and then a perturbation was introduced. Following many previous researches, to mention but a few, Agrawal et al. [7], Igci et al. [34], and Lu et al. [16], the time series of slip velocity of y-direction were monitored to

1 observe its fluctuation. After a period of time, the quasi-steady state was reached where the
2 time-averaged slip velocity kept almost unchanged, then statistical analysis could be started to
3 determine the time-averaged quantities. In this study, all simulations over the periodic domain ran
4 for 8 seconds and the last 4 seconds were collected for time-averaged statistics. Implicit formulation
5 was adopted to solve the volume fraction equation, since it reached pseudo-steady state faster than
6 explicit formulations [35]. The physical time step 2×10^{-4} s chosen in present work was based on the
7 work of Lu et al [16]. However, for the case of the finest grid (128×512), using such a time step
8 causes convergence difficulty, thus, a smaller physical time step 5×10^{-5} s was chosen. The
9 Favre-averaged slip velocity over the domain, as applied in Agrawal et al. [7], was used to quantify
10 the effects of meso-scale structure on the drag, and defined by

$$11 \quad \bar{u}_r = \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{g(i)} u_{g(i)}}{\mathcal{E}_g} - \frac{\mathcal{E}_{s(i)} u_{s(i)}}{\mathcal{E}_s} \right), \quad (12)$$

12 Where N is the number of cells. More simulations settings are shown in Table 2 and the drag
13 formulations are provided in Table B.2 of Supplementary material. Although the correction of this
14 work is complicated, the computational time does not increase too much as they only involve
15 algebraic calculation. According to our experience, the simulation time of using the model of
16 Hong et al. [5] and this work are almost the same.

17 Table 2 Parameters settings for simulations in a periodic domain.

Particle diameter, μm	97
Particle density, kg/m^3	1500
Gas density, kg/m^3	0.6747
Gas viscosity, $\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$	2.7782×10^{-5}
Domain size, mm^2	25×100
Number of grids	$4 \times 16, 8 \times 32, 16 \times 64, 32 \times 128, 64 \times 256, 128 \times 512$

Restitution coefficient	0.9
Drag coefficients	Hong et al. [5]/This work.
Physical time-step	2×10^{-4} s, 5×10^{-5} s

1

2 3.2 Results and discussions

3 Fig.2 shows the variation of time-averaged axial slip velocity against grid size for two solid
4 concentrations. To the left of the figure, the y-coordinates are scaled with the terminal velocity of
5 a single particle ($u_t=0.255$ m/s), and to the right, y-coordinates are scaled with the time-averaged
6 slip velocity of the coarsest-grid case (6.25×6.25 mm²). X-abscissas are scaled with the particle
7 diameter, d_p .

8 For the case of $\varepsilon_s=0.05$, the slip velocities keep changing until the grid size decreases to $4d_p$.
9 During grid refinement, the dimensionless slip velocity (u_r/u_t) predicted by using the drag of Hong
10 et al. [5] changes from three to five. By comparison, the change predicted by using our new drag is
11 much smaller.

12 For the case of $\varepsilon_s=0.2$, the slip velocity predicted by using the drag of Hong et al. [5]
13 converges to its asymptotic value again at the grid size of about $4d_p$, whereas the sensitivity to the
14 grid size is weaker compared to the dilute flow case ($\varepsilon_s=0.05$). And our new drag model shows even
15 weaker dependence on the grid size. That implies a coarser grid could be applied when using our
16 new drag based on two-step scheme.

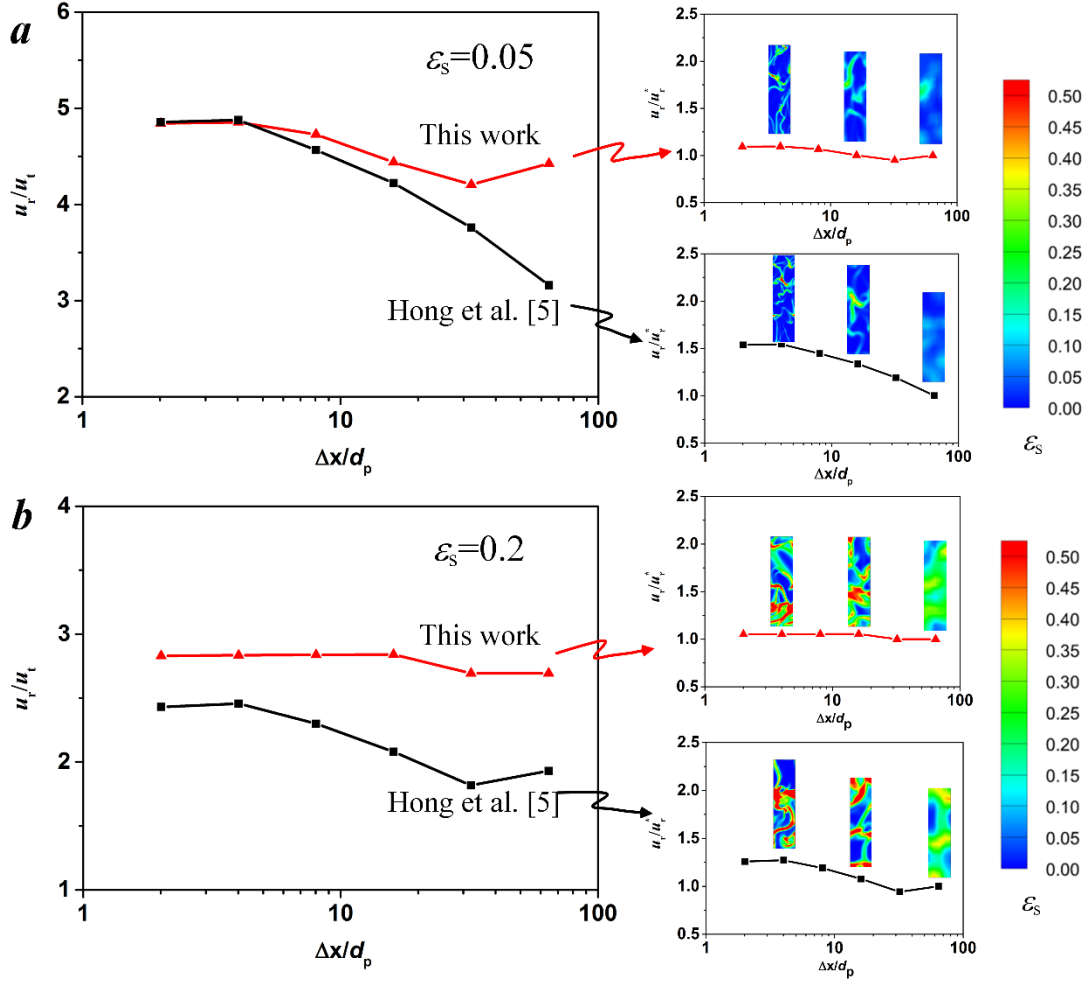


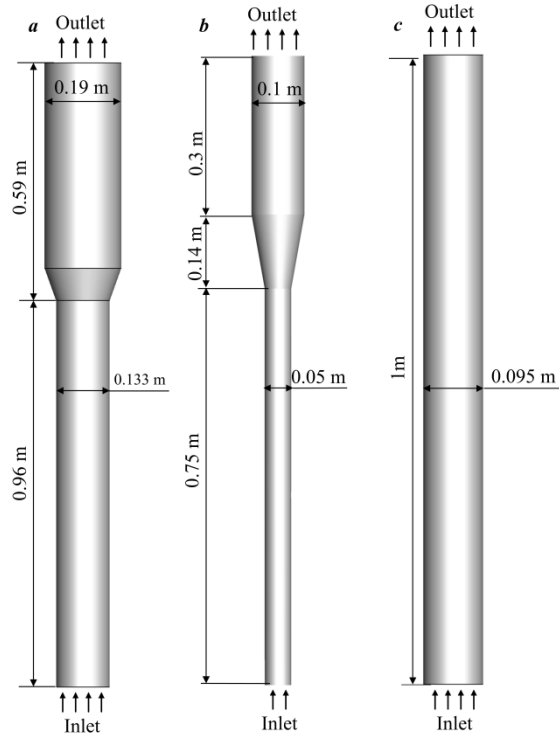
Fig. 2 Effect of grid resolution on time-averaged axial slip velocity with snapshots of solids distribution. u_r^* is the time-averaged axial slip velocity over the largest grid scheme for each case in simulations. The drag coefficients of EMMS/bubbling model and this work are based on the following operating conditions ($\rho_g=0.6747 \text{ kg/m}^3$, $\rho_p=1500 \text{ kg/m}^3$, $d_p=97 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, $\mu_g=2.7782 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$, $\varepsilon_{mf}=0.4$, $U_g=0.8864 \text{ m/s}$, $G_s=1.5 \text{ kg/(m}^2\text{s)}$, $D_t=10.5 \text{ m}$): (a) $\varepsilon_s=0.05$; (b) $\varepsilon_s=0.2$.

4 Model Evaluation

4.1 Numerical description

To further evaluate the effect of the slip velocity factor in the new drag model, we performed a series of simulations of three fluidized beds by using the EMMS/bubbling drag with and without

1 slip factor. These three fluidized beds operate over regimes from bubbling fluidized bed
2 (Dubrawski et al. [33]) to turbulent fluidized bed (Venderbosch [6], Gao et al. [36]). Fig. 3 shows
3 their geometries and Table 3 lists the material properties and operating conditions.



4 Fig. 3 Schematic diagrams of the simulated fluidized beds: (a) bubbling fluidized bed from
5 Dubrawski et al. [33], (b) turbulent fluidized bed from Venderbosch [6], (c) turbulent fluidized bed
6 from Gao et al. [36].
7
8

9 Table 3 Material properties and operating conditions of the selected fluidized beds

Parameters	Dubrawski et al. [33]	Venderbosch [6]	Gao et al. [36]
$d_p(\text{m})$	10.3×10^{-5}	9.0×10^{-5}	13.9×10^{-5}
$\rho_s(\text{kg/m}^3)$	1560	1375	2400
$\rho_g(\text{kg/m}^3)$	1.225	1.225	1.225
$\mu_g(\text{Pa.s})$	1.8×10^{-5}	1.7894×10^{-5}	1.7894×10^{-5}

ε_{mf}	0.45	0.4	0.4
$U_g(\text{m/s})$	0.4	0.6	1.25
$u_t(\text{m/s})$	0.381	0.277	0.843
U_g/u_t	1.049	2.166	1.48

1

2 ANSYS Fluent® 15 was used as the CFD solver. For the bubbling fluidized bed, 9.51 kg
3 particles were piled up in the bottom of bed to a height of 0.8 m at the beginning of simulation,
4 and for the other two turbulent fluidized beds, 0.384 kg and 2.15 kg particles were piled up to the
5 heights of 0.75 m and 0.204 m, respectively. The gas enters the bed from the bottom inlet with
6 uniform velocity and exits from the top outlets, where atmospheric pressure was prescribed. The
7 no-slip and the partial-slip boundary condition were prescribed for the gas phase and solid phase,
8 respectively. The algebraic form of the granular temperature model is chosen in our simulations,
9 since it can save computational time and has better numerical convergence. In addition, this option
10 allows similar prediction as using the full granular energy balance model [9, 37-39]. The solids
11 leaving the outlets were recirculated to the bottom through using user defined functions (UDF) to
12 avoid serious solid entrainment. The averaged solid concentration in the dense bottom and solid
13 flux at different heights were monitored to determine when the simulation reached quasi-steady
14 state. We found those parameters converged to certain quasi-steady value after 20 seconds.
15 Therefore, all simulations of reactors ran for 30 s and the data of the last 10 s were collected for
16 averaging. More simulation settings are summarized in Table 4 and the drag formulations are
17 provided in Supplementary material.

18

1 Table 4 Simulation settings of three fluidized beds

	Dubrawski et al. [33]	Venderbosch [6]	Gao et al. [36]
Mean grid size, Δ	$198d_p, 162d_p, 112d_p$	$67d_p, 45d_p$	$62d_p, 51d_p, 41d_p$
Solid inventory, kg	9.51	0.384	2.15
Initial bed height, H_0 , m	0.8	0.75	0.204
Maximum solids fraction	0.55	0.63	0.63
Unsteady formulation	Unsteady, 2nd-order Implicit		
Pressure-velocity coupling	Phase coupled SIMPLE		
Granular viscosity	Gidaspow		
Granular bulk viscosity	Lun et al.		
Frictional viscosity	Schaeffer		
Granular temperature	Algebraic		
Frictional pressure	Based KTGF		
Solid pressure	Lun et al.		
Radial distribution	Lun et al.		
Angle of internal friction	30		
Drag model	Hong et al. [5]/This work		
Time step	0.0005 s		

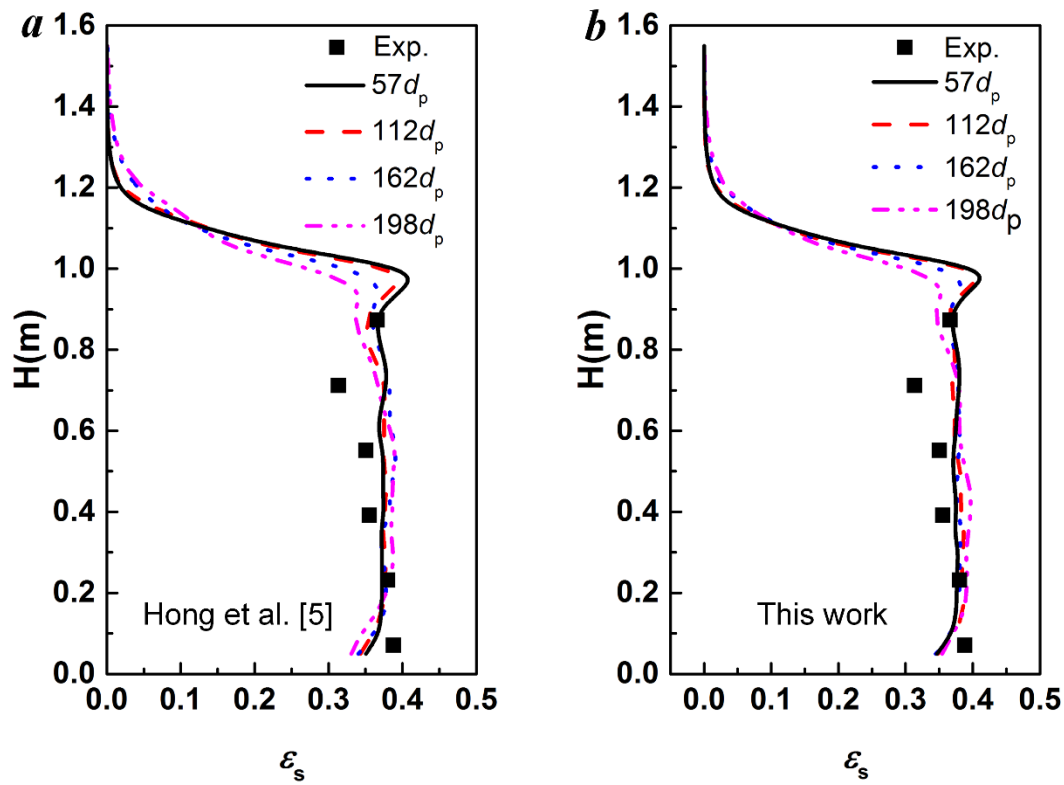
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3 4.2 Results and discussions

4 4.2.1 Bubbling fluidized bed

5 Fig. 4 shows the effect of grid size when using both drag models for the bubbling fluidized

1 bed by the axial profiles of solids volume fraction. Both drag models show good prediction and
2 weak dependence on the grid size. Fig. 5 shows the instantaneous and time-averaged distribution of
3 solid concentration under different resolutions when using both drag models. It is clear that
4 meso-scale structures in forms of bubbles or voids can be captured. The predicted expansion heights,
5 as summarized in Table 5, are determined by following the approach of Cloete et al. [40] and they
6 are also weakly dependent on the grid size.



7
8 Fig. 4 Axial profiles of time-averaged solid concentration for bubbling fluidized bed of Dubrawski
9 et al. [33] under different grid resolutions by using drag models of (a) Hong et al. [5] and (b) this
10 work.

11 As shown in Fig. 5, both large and small bubbles are captured when using the finest grid
12 resolution in the simulation. For the case of coarsest grid resolution, only large bubbles are captured.
13 Vashisth et al. [41] also reported similar results. The probable reason is that only the bubble larger

1 than the grid size can be captured in CFD simulation. Although different bubble behaviors are
2 captured by using different grid resolutions, such difference does not result in much different
3 time-averaged distribution of solid concentration, bed expansion and axial profiles of solid
4 concentration, suggesting that both structure-dependent drag models allow quantitative prediction
5 under coarse grid resolution though flow details are filtered.

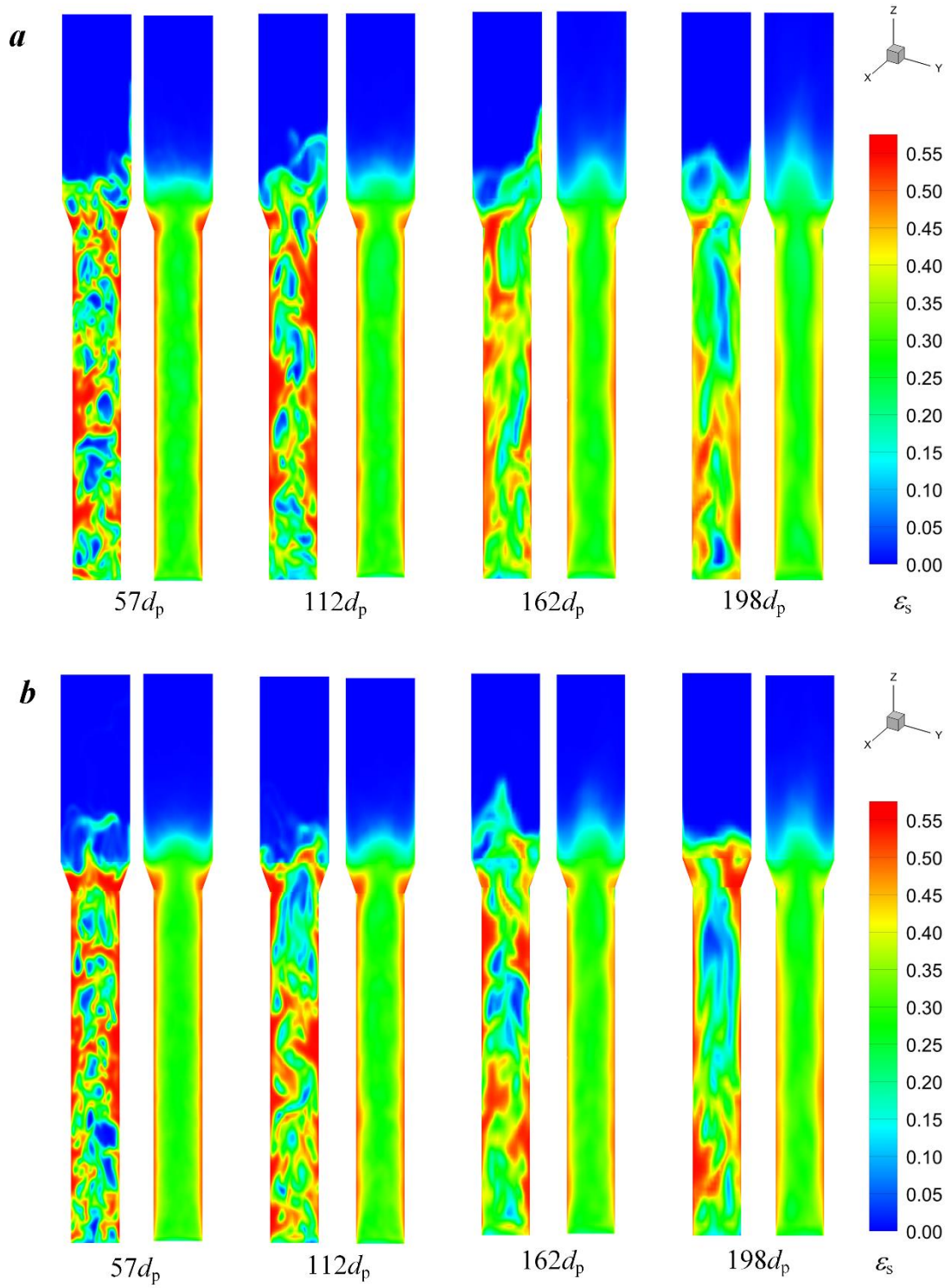


Fig. 5 Instantaneous and time-averaged distribution of solid concentration of the bubbling fluidized bed of Dubrawski et al. [33] by using drag models of (a) Hong et al. [5] and (b) this work.

1

2 Table 5 Expansion heights predicted for the bubbling fluidized bed under different grid sizes

Grid size	Expansion height (m)		
	Hong et al. [5]	This work	Exp. [41]
$57d_p$	1.155	1.152	
$112d_p$	1.162	1.155	
$162d_p$	1.185	1.168	1.1
$198d_p$	1.203	1.169	

3

4 Fig.6 compares the radial profiles of solid concentration when using both drag models under
5 the coarsest resolution ($\Delta=198d_p$). It is clear that both models capture the so-called core-annulus
6 flow structure. Quantitative comparison to experimental data shows that both drag models allow
7 reasonable prediction and their difference is small. This finding is consistent with the report of
8 Ghadirian et al. [42], as the bubbling fluidized bed is operated with low gas velocity and a narrow
9 distribution of slip velocity. Therefore, it is not surprising that the slip factor is not so significant
10 here.

11

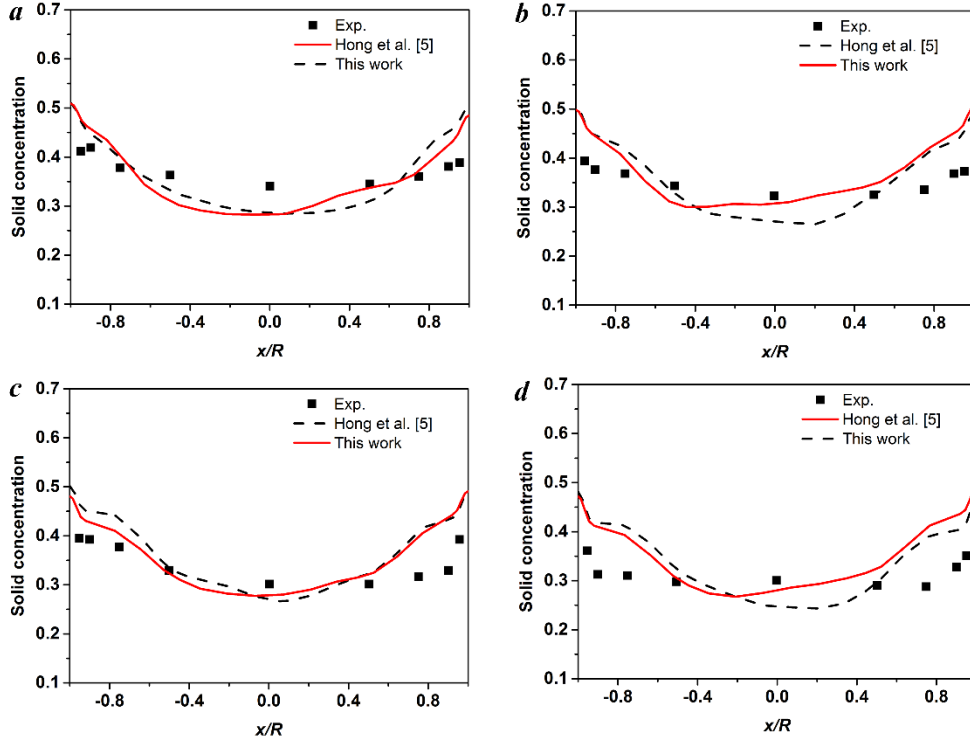


Fig. 6 Comparison of time-averaged radial profiles of solid concentration at the height of (a) $H=0.24$ m, (b) $H=0.4$ m, (c) $H=0.56$ m and (d) $H=0.72$ m.

4.2.2 Turbulent fluidized bed

In the following, we present results of two turbulent fluidized beds to further investigate the effect of newly introduced slip factor on the grid dependence. Fig.7 shows time-averaged axial profiles of solid concentration and several slices of distribution of solids. Two drag models are employed under two resolutions. When the EMMS/bubbling drag of Hong et al. [5] is employed, refining grid size from $67d_p$ to $45d_p$ obviously improves the prediction, especially in the dense bottom. Whereas for the new drag model, the prediction is less sensitive to the change of grid size and the axial profiles under both grid resolutions agree well with the experiment.

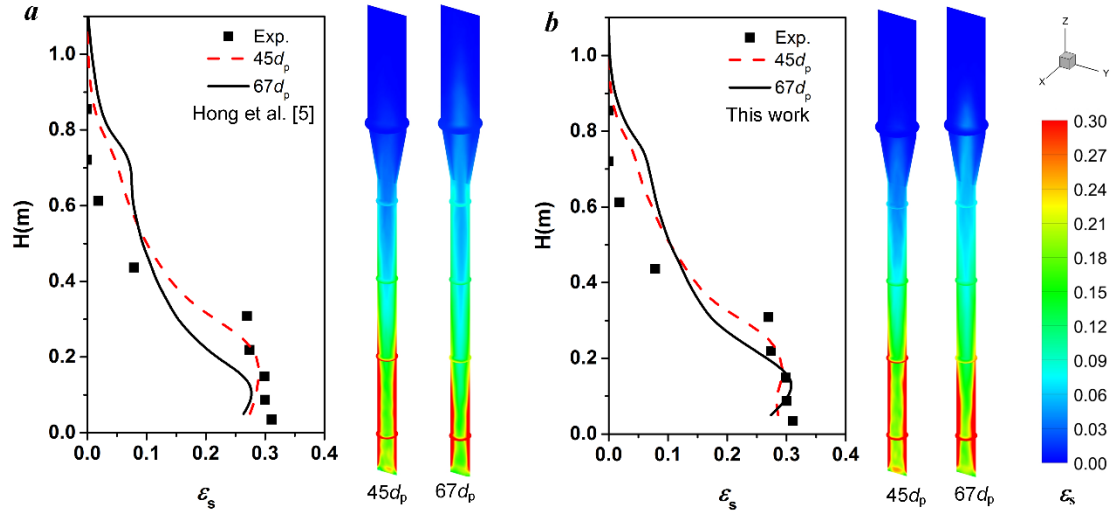


Fig. 7 Time-averaged axial profiles of solid concentration and distribution of solid concentration over the whole turbulent fluidized bed of Venderbosch [6] when using (a) the drag of Hong et al. [5] and (b) this work.

Compared to the case of Venderbosch, the fluidized bed of Gao et al. [36] is operated with higher gas velocity. The simulated axial profiles of time-averaged solid concentration by using both drag models are shown in Fig.8. Three grid resolutions were employed. For the EMMS/bubbling model of Hong et al. [5], the prediction improves with grid refinement. However, the case with finest resolution ($\Delta=41d_p$) still underestimates the solid concentration in the bottom region and overestimates the solid concentration in the top of bed. When the new drag model is applied, the grid size has little effect on the predicted curves and at the same time the simulation results are much closer to the experiment, reflecting the contribution of the slip velocity.

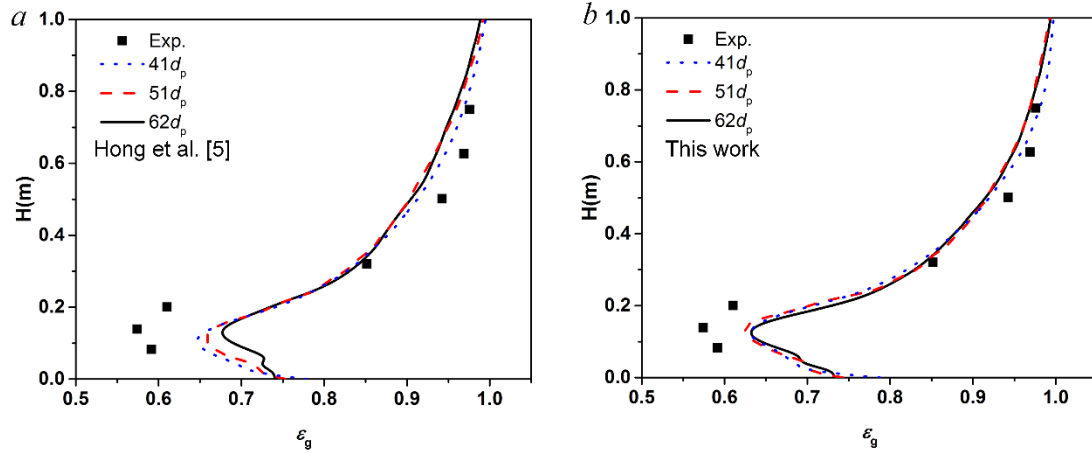


Fig. 8 Time-averaged axial profiles of solid concentration for turbulent fluidized bed of Gao et al.[36] under different grid sizes by using the drag models of (a) Hong et al. [5] and (b) this work.

Fig. 9 shows the relative errors ($R=|\varepsilon_{s,c}-\varepsilon_{s,f}|/\varepsilon_{s,f}\times 100\%$) of solid concentration. For the model of Hong et al. [5], almost all the relative errors of solid concentration in the dense bottom exceed 5% and some even larger than 10%. By comparison, the relative errors of using the new drag model are much smaller.

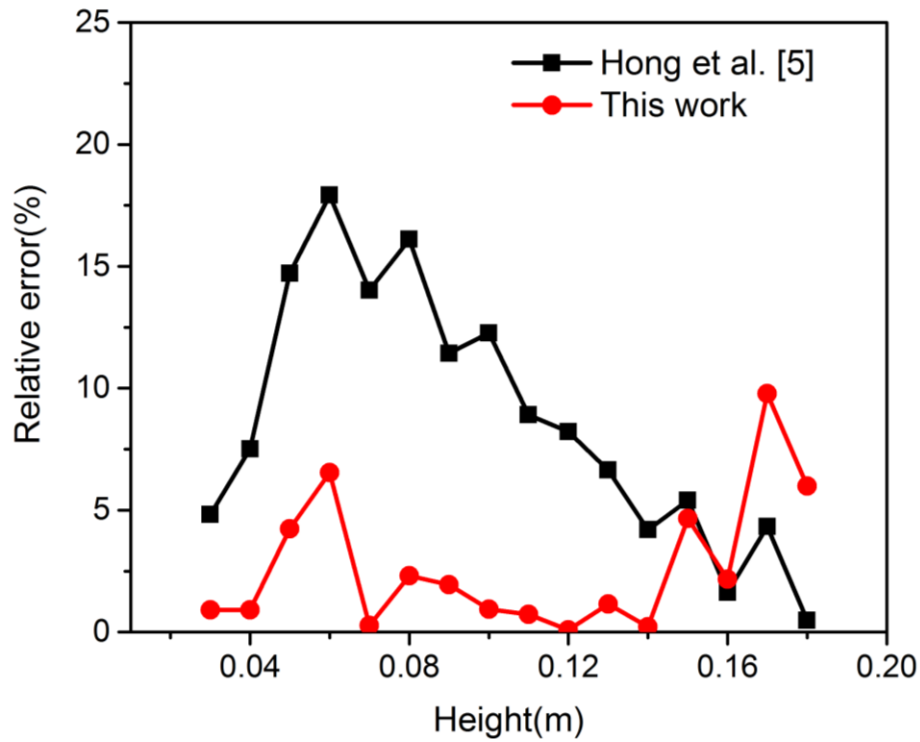
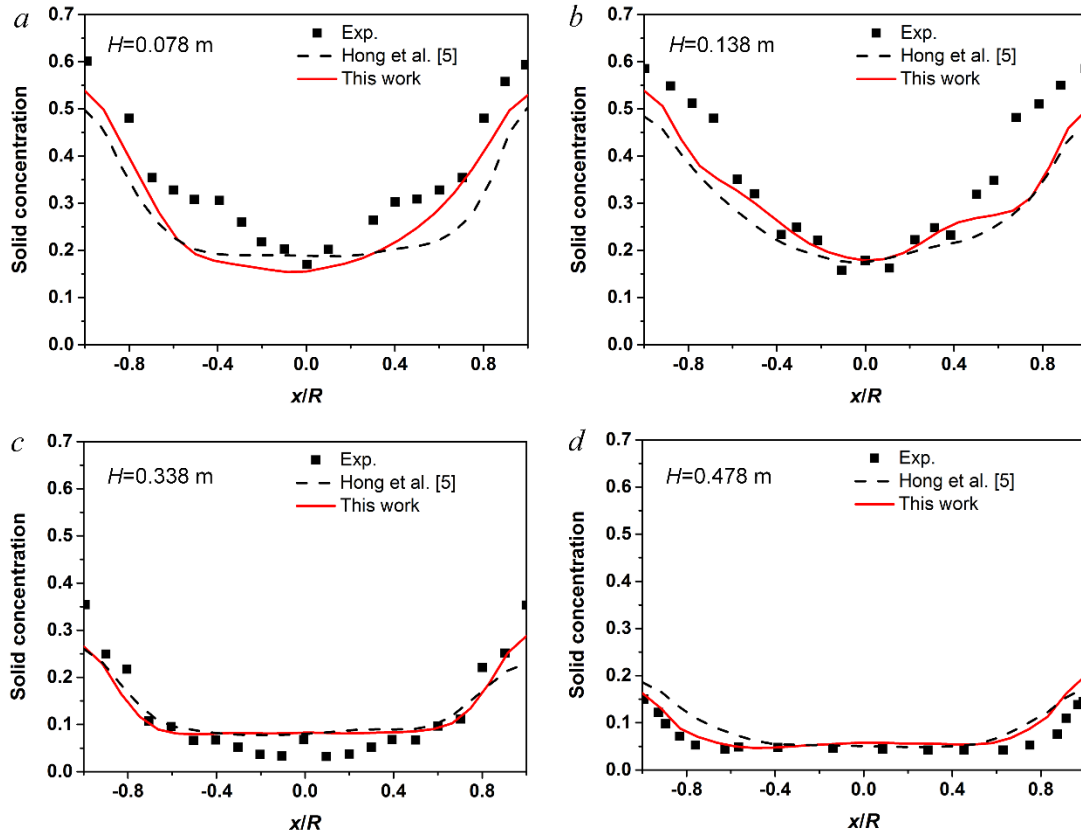


Fig. 9 The relative errors of solid concentration by using the model of Hong et al. [5] and new

1 drag model (relative error $R=|\varepsilon_{s,c}-\varepsilon_{s,f}|/\varepsilon_{s,f}\times 100\%$, where $\varepsilon_{s,c}$ is solid concentration under the coarsest
2 grid resolution, and $\varepsilon_{s,f}$ under the finest grid resolution).

3 Fig.10 shows radial profiles of time-averaged solid concentration at different heights under
4 the coarsest grid resolution ($\Delta\approx 62d_p$). At the lower positions of $H=0.078$ m and 0.138 m, the
5 prediction of the EMMS/bubbling model of Hong et al. [5] is generally lower than that of this
6 work in most regions, especially near the wall. At higher position of 0.338 m, the results predicted
7 by using both drag models are close to each other. At even higher position of $H=0.478$ m, the new
8 drag model again shows better agreement with experimental data.

9



10

11 Fig. 10 The radial profiles of time-averaged solid concentration for turbulent fluidized bed of Gao
12 et al. [36] at different heights: (a) $H=0.078$ m, (b) $H=0.138$ m, (c) $H=0.338$ m and (d) $H=0.478$ m.

1 **5 Conclusions**

2 The EMMS/bubbling drag model is extended to the sub-grid level by following the two-step
3 scheme of EMMS/matrix model. The heterogeneity index is therefore correlated as a function of
4 both local voidage and slip velocity. Simulations over a periodic domain show that the new drag
5 model is less sensitive to grid size because of the additional dependence on local slip velocity.
6 When applying the new drag model to simulations of realistic fluidized beds, we find that such
7 additional dependence on slip velocity enables better grid-independent results for high-velocity
8 turbulent fluidized beds. Compared to our previous EMMS/bubbling model, the new drag model
9 shows better qualitative agreement with experimental data.

10 **Nomenclature**

a	acceleration	m/s^2
C_{d0}	standard drag coefficient for a particle	
C_{db}	standard drag coefficient for a bubble	
C_{dc}	effective drag coefficient for a particle in dense phase	
C_{dc0}	standard drag coefficient for a particle in dense phase	
C_{df}	effective drag coefficient for a particle in dilute phase	
C_{df0}	standard drag coefficient for a particle in dilute phase	
C_{db0}	effective drag coefficient for a bubble	
d_b	bubble diameter	m
d_{bm}	maximum bubble diameter	m
d_p	particle diameter	m
D_t	column diameter	m

F	drag force	N
f	volume fraction of dense phase	
g	gravity acceleration	m/s ²
g_0	radial distribution function	
H	fluidized bed height	m
H_D	heterogeneity index	
N_{st}	mass-specific energy consumption for suspending and transporting particles	W/kg
N_T	total mass-specific energy,	W/kg
p	pressure	Pa
Re	Reynolds number ($Re=U_r d_p \rho_g / \mu_g$)	
RR	relative error	%
u	velocity	m/s
u_t	terminal velocity of a single particle	m/s
U_g	superficial gas velocity	m/s
U_s	superficial solid velocity	m/s
U_r	slip velocity	m/s
U_{rc}	slip velocity in dense phase	m/s
U_{rf}	slip velocity in dilute phase	m/s
U_{ri}	slip velocity in inter phase	m/s

1

2 Greek letters

β	effective drag coefficient	kg/(m ³ s)
β_0	Wen & Yu drag coefficient	kg/(m ³ s)
ε	voidage	
ε_{mf}	minimum fluidization voidage	
μ	viscosity	Pa·s
ρ	density	kg/m ³

1

2 Subscripts

b	bubble phase
c	dense phase
f	dilute phase
g	gas
gc	dense-phase gas
gf	dilute-phase gas
s	solid phase
sc	dense-phase solid
sf	dilute-phase solid

3

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